

Minutes
Town of Lake Park, Florida
Town Commission Workshop
May 12, 2004 7:30p.m.
Town Commission Chambers, 535 Park Avenue

The Town Commission met for the purpose of a Regular Town Commission Meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Castro, Vice-Mayor Balius, Commissioners Carey, Daly and Garretson. Town Manager Doug Drymon, Attorney Karen Roselli and Deputy Town Clerk Stephanie Thomas.

Mayor Castro called the Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
Deputy Town Clerk Stephanie Thomas performed the Roll Call.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

Park Avenue Downtown District (PADD)

Town Manager Douglas Drymon indicated that the general feeling of the merchants in the PADD is that the current enforcement of the signage code is negatively affecting the businesses.

Jamie Gentile of Calvin, Giordano & Associates provided a brief summary of the signage code and explained that there are three (3) major code provisions that are generating the most quandaries. (See exhibit A)

Code Compliance Officer Gregory Durgin stated that several of the businesses in the PADD provide personal services which require privacy. The business owners feel that the code should provide leverage when it comes to the type of services that are being rendered. After extensive discussion, the Town Commission came to a consensus to allow the personal service businesses to close their blinds during business hours; however the blinds should be opened after hours for security purposes.

The Town Commission stated that there should not be any paper signs in the windows in the PADD. The Mayor and Town Commission indicated that the verbiage used in the PADD Code as it pertains to the "frontage" of a business is not very comprehensible. Direction was given to Mr. Gentile to research and modify the aforementioned section of the signage code.

The Mayor and Town Commission are opposed to painted window signs and neon signs. Instead the Town Commission indicated that they would like to have a more uniformed look in the PADD. The Commission stated that plastic signs can be used if the work is completed by a professional.

The Commission gave Mr. Gentile direction to come back before them in the second meeting in June to present a proposal with reference to the parking regulations for future businesses in the PADD.

The pleasure of the Commission was to allow all signage cases to be placed on hold until the Commission has decided on a plan of action.

Public Comment Opened.

The following business/property owners addressed the Commission concerning the enforcement of the signage code in the PADD.

Steve Mizerak, Mizerak's Billiard
John Little, Second Hand Rose
Sue Ellen Mosler, Kelsey Club
Sabrina, Owner of Hair Salon
Richard Ahrens, One Park Place
Joy Domm, Property Owner
John Ramos, Business Owner

Public Comment Closed.

Park Avenue Extension

The Town Commission requested clarification as to why discussions of the Park Avenue Extension have come back before them. Town Manager Drymon responded that it is due to the growth in the western area of the Town and by extending Park Avenue it would provide traffic relief to high traffic areas. Town Manager Drymon indicated that the merchants will benefit from the recourse of traffic, providing an increase in sales to the businesses.

The Town Commission feels that the Town would not benefit from taking such action. The Mayor and Town Commission were concerned about traffic calming devices on Park Avenue.

The Commission also inquired about the funds for the completion of the project. Public Works Director Paul Carlisle indicated that Palm Beach County is willing to assist with the cost of the Park Avenue extension as well as with the relocation cost of the Public Works facility. Mayor Castro stated that it is the responsibility of the Commission to make sure that Palm beach County spends money in the areas where they are collecting impact fees.

Mr. Carlisle reiterated that the Town must make a commitment to approve or deny the project so that he can get a definite response back to Palm Beach County. Mr. Carlisle stated that he would like to see the project in the five or 10 year plan for the Town.

Mayor Castro firmly stated that the Commission would like to be made fully aware of the cost of the project and of the traffic calming devices. Jamie Gentile informed the Commission that Calvin, Giordano & Associates have traffic engineers on staff that can contribute to the study.

Public Comment Opened.

The following person(s) addressed the Commission:

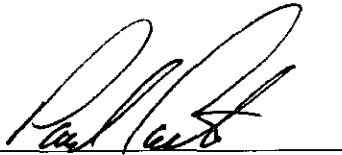
Diane Munroe, Hawthorne Drive

John Ramos, Park Avenue

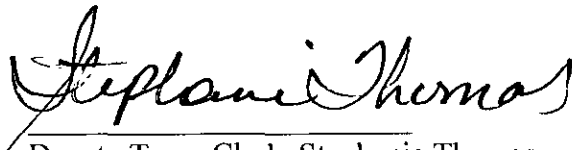
Public Comment Closed.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Commission, after a motion to adjourn by Vice Mayor Balius, seconded by Commissioner Daly, and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Castro", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Paul Castro

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Thomas", written over a horizontal line.

Deputy Town Clerk, Stephanie Thomas

Approved on this 2nd day of June 2004.